

Wycombe unlucky in third home reverse

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Leytonstone 4

WYCOMBE WANDERERS can consider themselves a little unfortunate to lose their third home match of the season. For certainly 'lady-luck' played a major role in the game, and in this department Leytonstone had the edge.

Nevertheless it was an entertaining match, although from the local point of view the final result makes disappointing reading.

It was significant that goalkeeper John Maskell started the match with a heavily strapped left leg, and as the game progressed the injury became worse.

In fact Maskell would not have played had another 'keeper been available. When he arrived at the ground around 2 p.m. his leg was badly swollen. The reserve team had already left for their game against Corinthian-Casuals, and although Colin Bunting attended the match he is recovering from an operation on the elbow and is under doctor's orders not to play for three weeks.

Certainly after the resumption Maskell limped quite noticeably, and was unable to cut out crosses which he usually does so competently allowing the visiting forwards more freedom in the box, and putting his own colleagues under extra pressure.

DUBIOUS DECISION

After 12 minutes Wycombe were behind to a very dubious penalty decision. Gale robbed Gray with a sliding tackle and as he fell to his knees the ball appeared to hit his hand. After consulting a linesman Mr. H. M. Prest awarded a spot-kick which Andrews converted.

Eight minutes before the break Mr. Prest seemed to atone for his earlier error in judgement, when he awarded Wanderers a penalty as Horseman stumbled in the box with three 'Stones' defenders around him. Tony, of course, made no mistake.

Sandwiched in between the goals was an incredible save from Mackie when Bates was put clean through by Horseman and Paul's close-range drive was beaten out by the 'keeper.

A minute before the break Leytonstone took the lead again as Gray — a continual menace to the Wycombe rearguard throughout the match — appeared to control the ball with his hand before scoring.

A determined Wycombe started the second half full of fight and spirit. Horseman was particularly unlucky to see his shot blocked on the line by Charles.

They were rewarded for their pressure in the 57th minute as Bates was fouled on the edge of the box. Horseman cleverly flighted the free-kick over the defensive 'wall' and Mackie could only block the shot, with Samuels tapping the rebound home.

Just as it looked as though the Wanderers were about to take command, Leytonstone scored twice in three minutes. First Swain's low cross found Gray, who joyfully thumped it home while the Wycombe defence hesitated, and another Swain cross was turned into his own net by Beck attempting to put the ball behind for a corner.

These two goals knocked the stuffing out of Wycombe and Leytonstone virtually took command for the rest of the match apart from a couple of individual efforts from Horseman and Bates.

Wycombe: J. Maskell; J. Beck, I. Randle; B. Baker, V. Faulkner, C. Gale; L. Merrick, K. Samuels, P. Bates, A. Horseman, S. Holmes.

Wycombe 2 Leytonstone 4

DEFENSIVE MISTAKES and failure to keep a close enough watch on danger man Ken Gray proved fatal for Wycombe Wanderers.

A goal down after 12 minutes when Andrews put Leytonstone ahead from a penalty. Wycombe fought back boldly, and their outstanding forward Horseman equalised with a 38th-minute penalty.

Gray's lively opportunism restored Leytonstone's lead a minute before half-time and, after Samuels had equalised again in a Wycombe second-half spurt, it was Gray who exploited a lapse in defence to put the visitors ahead in the 71st minute.

Two minutes later Wycombe right back Beck own-goaled when attempting to clear.